

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

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R 140847Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WAHSDC 4569

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, US

SUBJECT: PRC MEDIA REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

SUMMARY: NCNA APRIL 13 MADE ITS FIRST REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT FORD'S APRIL 10 FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS IN AN ARTICLE SUMMARIZING "WASHINGTON REPORTS" OF THE SPEECH. WHILE NCNA'S MAJOR EMPHASIS WAS ON THE INDOCHINA SITUATION, THE ARTICLE ALSO TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS CONCERNING THE "COMPETITIVE RELATIONSHIP" WITH THE SVIETS AND HIS SCHEDULED VISIT LATER THIS YEAR TO PEKING. END SUMMARY

1. IN ITS FIRST COMMENT ON PRESIDENT FORD'S ADDRESS TO CONGRESS, NCNA APRIL 13 CARRIED A SUMMARY OF THE SPEECH ATTRIBUTED TO UNIDENTIFIED "WASHINGTON REPORTS." QUOTING EXTENSIVELY AND SELECTIVELY FROM THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS, THE ARTICLE CONCENTRATED ON THE INDOCHINA SITUATION. CLAIMING THE "THIEU CLIQUE" WAS FACING COMPLETE COLLAPSE, THE ARTICLE SAID THAT "UNDER THE PRETEXT THAT THE US COULD NOT 'ABANDON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUR FRIENDS," THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL

APPROPRIATIONS AND SOUGHT IMMEDIATE CLARIFICATION FROM CONGRESS OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE US MILITARY IN CONNECTION WITH ENSURING SAFE EVACUATION OF AMERICANS. NCNA CONSIDERED THIS AS "OBVIOUSLY AIMED AT OBTAINING A 'LEGAL BASIS' FOR FUTURE INTERVENTION IN SOUTH VIETNAM BY US MILITARY FORCES AND ARMED BLACKMAIL AGAINST THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE."

2. ON CAMBODIA, NCNA QUOTED THE PRESIDENT AS INDICATING " IT MAY BE TOO LATE." NCNA ALSO NOTED THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON NOT POINTING THE FINGER OF BLAME BUT CLAIMED THAT HE "ATTACKED THE DRVN, COMPLAINED CONGRESS HAD MADE THE USG 'UNABLE TO RESPOND,' AND BLAMED THE THIEU CLIQUE FOR A 'POORLY EXECUTED STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL'".

3. NCNA'S COMMENTS ON PORTIONS OF THE SPEECH NOT DEALING WITH INDOCHINA WERE LIMITED TO PASSING REFERENCE TO THE PRESIDENT'S DESIRE FOR "CLOSE COOPERATION WITH NATO AND JAPAN. HIS AGREEMENT "IN PRINCIPLE TO RECONVENE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE" ON THE MIDDLE EAST, AND HIS REMARKS ON US-SOVIET AND SINO-US RELATIONS. NCNA POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESIDENT CONSIDERED THE US-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP AS "COMPETITIVE" AND THAT HE WOULD NOT "PERMIT DETENTE TO BECOME A LICENSE TO FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS."

4. ON SINO-US RELATIONS, NCNA QUOTED THE PRESIDENT' SATISFACTION WITH PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE BUT NOTED HIS STATEMENT ON THE EXISTENCE OF DEEP DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THEIR MUTUAL LONG-TERM INTERESTS. THE ARTICLE ENDED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON HIS VISIT TO CHINA THIS YEAR TO "REAFFIRM THESE INTERESTS AND TO ACCELERATE THE IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS."

5. THE HONG KONG COMMUNIST PRESS AS USUAL USED WESTERN NEWS AGENCY REPORTS FOR ITS FACTUAL REPORTING OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS. BOTH TA KUNG PAO AND WEN WEI PAO ADDITIONALLY CARRIED SHORT COMMENTARIES ON APRIL 12. WEN WEI PAO LIMITED ITS COMMENT TO THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR EVACUATION ASSISTANCE BY US MILITARY. THE REQUEST WAS TERMED BY WEN WEI PAO AS A PLOT TO INTERFERE MILITARILY ONCE AGAIN IN VIETNAM AND THE COMMENTARY MAINTAINED THAT THE US CONGRESS AND PEOPLE WERE OPPOSED TO SUCH INTERFERENCE. CITING THE COSTS TO THE USG OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIETNAM INVOLVEMENT TO DATE AND THE RECENT SUCCESSES OF RE
VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE. THE COMMENTARY INDICATED THAT ADDITIONAL
AMERICAN FUNDS WOULD BE USELESS. TA KUNG PAO EMPHASIZED THE "THIEU CLIQUE" AS VIOLATORS OF THE PARIS ACCORDS AND SAID THIEU MUST LEAVE IN ORDER TO END VIOLATIONS AND RESTORE ADHERENCE TO THE ACCORDS.

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